

In The Claims

Please amend claims 2, 10, 13, 16, 19, 31, 34, 37 and 40 as set forth below:

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1    1.    (Original) A method comprising:  
2            copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
3    area;  
4            blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values to generate  
5    third pixel values;  
6            replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate  
7    display of a non-blocking always visible display;  
8            monitoring for display operations that impact the first display screen area;  
9            upon detection of such a display operation, replacing said third pixel values  
10   with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values;  
11           upon completion of the detected operation, copying and saving fourth pixel  
12   values corresponding to the first display screen area;  
13           blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
14   generate fifth pixel values;  
15           replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
16   the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the non-blocking always visible  
17   display.

1    2.    (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises  
2            marking a buffer holding said third/fifth pixel values changed; and  
3            periodically checking to determine if said buffer has been marked  
4    changed.

1    3.    (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises

2 intercepting invocations of display screen memory operations; and  
3 determining if targeted display screen areas of the display screen memory  
4 operations being invoked intersect with said first screen display area.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises  
2 intercepting cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and  
3 determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
4 program associated with said non-blocking always visible display or an application  
5 program associated with an underlying display window.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein each of said blending is performed  
2 in accordance with a then current blending setting, and said determining comprises  
3 determining if the current blending setting is greater than a predetermined threshold,  
4 favoring contents of said non-blocking always visible display.

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1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said non-blocking always visible  
2 display is a selected one of an on-line data monitor, a tool bar, a logo/mark, and an  
3 animated assistant.

1 7. (Original) A method comprising:  
2 copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
3 area;  
4 blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
5 to a non-blocking always visible display to generate third pixel values;  
6 replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate  
7 display of the non-blocking always visible display;  
8 intercepting cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and

9 determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
10 program associated with said non-blocking always visible display or an application  
11 program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in part on a  
12 current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible display and said  
13 underlying display windows.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said blending is performed in  
2 accordance with a current blending setting, and said determining comprises  
3 determining if the current blending setting is greater than a predetermined threshold,  
4 favoring contents of said non-blocking always visible display.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said non-blocking always visible  
2 display is a selected one of an on-line data monitor, a tool bar, a logo/mark, and an  
3 animated assistant.

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1 10. (Amended) A method comprising:  
2 copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
3 area on which a non-blocking always visible on-line data monitor is to be rendered;  
4 blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
5 to the non-blocking always visible on-line data monitor to generate third pixel values;  
6 and  
7 replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate  
8 display of the on-line data monitor with the non-blocking always visible attribute to  
9 provide visual differentiation between said on-line data monitor and underlying  
10 display windows associated with locally executed application programs.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises

2 monitoring for display operations that impact the first display screen area;  
3 upon detection of such a display operation, replacing said third pixel values  
4 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values;  
5 upon completion of said display operation, copying and saving fourth pixel  
6 values corresponding to the first display screen area;  
7 blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
8 generate fifth pixel values; and  
9 replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
10 the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the on-line monitor.

b2 12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises  
2 intercepting cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and  
3 determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
4 program associated with said non-blocking always visible on-line data monitor or an  
5 application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in  
6 part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible on-line  
7 data monitor and underlying display windows.

1 13. (Amended) A method comprising:  
2 copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
3 area on which a non-blocking always visible task bar is to be rendered;  
4 blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
5 to the non-blocking always visible task bar to generate third pixel values;  
6 replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate  
7 display of the task bar with the non-blocking always visible attribute;  
8 monitoring for display operations that impact the first display screen area;

9           upon detection of such a display operation, replacing said third pixel values  
10 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values;  
11           upon completion of said display operation, copying and saving fourth pixel  
12 values corresponding to the first display screen area;  
13           blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
14 generate fifth pixel values; and  
15           replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
16 the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the task bar.

1   14.   (Previously Cancelled)

1   15.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises  
2           intercepting cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and  
3           determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
4 program associated with said non-blocking always visible task bar or an application  
5 program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in part on a  
6 current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible task bar and  
7 underlying display windows.

1   16.   (Amended) A method comprising:  
2           copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
3 area on which a non-blocking always visible logo/mark is to be rendered;  
4           blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
5 to the non-blocking always visible logo/mark to generate third pixel values;  
6           replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate  
7 display of the logo/mark with the non-blocking always visible attribute;  
8           monitoring for display operations that impact the first display screen area;

9           upon detection of such a display operation, replacing said third pixel values  
10 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values;  
11           upon completion of said display operation, copying and saving fourth pixel  
12 values corresponding to the first display screen area;  
13           blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
14 generate fifth pixel values; and  
15           replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
16 the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the logo/mark.

1   17.   (Previously Cancelled)

1   18.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises  
2           intercepting cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and  
br 3           determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
4 program associated with said non-blocking always visible logo/mark or an  
5 application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in  
6 part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible logo/mark  
7 and underlying display windows.

1   19.   (Amended) A method comprising:  
2           copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
3 area on which a non-blocking always visible animated assistant is to be rendered;  
4           blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
5 to the non-blocking always visible animated assistant to generate third pixel values;  
6           replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate  
7 display of the animated assistant with the non-blocking always visible attribute;  
8           monitoring for display operations that impact the first display screen area;

9           upon detection of such a display operation, replacing said third pixel values  
10 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values;  
11           upon completion of said display operation, copying and saving fourth pixel  
12 values corresponding to the first display screen area;  
13           blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
14 generate fifth pixel values; and  
15           replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
16 the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the animated assistant.

1   20.   (Previously Cancelled)

b2 1   21.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises  
2           intercepting cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and  
3           determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
4 program associated with said non-blocking always visible animated assistant or an  
5 application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in  
6 part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible animated  
7 assistant and underlying display windows.

1   22.   (Original) An apparatus comprising:  
2           storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to  
3           copy and save first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
4           area,  
5           blend the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
6           to a non-blocking always visible display to generate third pixel values,  
7           replace the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to  
8           effectuate display of the non-blocking always visible display,

9 monitor for display operations that impact the first display screen area,  
10 upon detection of such a display operation, replace said third pixel values  
11 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values,  
12 copy and save fourth pixel values corresponding to the first display screen  
13 area,  
14 blend the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
15 generate fifth pixel values,  
16 replace the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
17 the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the non-blocking  
18 always visible display; and  
19 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
20 instruction.

br 1 23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the programming instructions  
2 are further designed to  
3 mark a buffer holding said third/fifth pixel values changed, and  
4 periodically check to determine if said buffer has been marked changed.

1 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said programming instructions  
2 are designed to  
3 intercept invocations of display screen memory operations; and  
4 determine if targeted display screen areas of the display screen memory  
5 operations being invoked intersect with said first screen display area.

1 25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the programming instructions  
2 are further designed to  
3 intercept cursor events associated with said first display screen area, and



4 determine whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
5 program associated with said non-blocking always visible display or an application  
6 program associated with an underlying display window.

1 26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said programming instructions  
2 are designed to perform each of said blending in accordance with a then current  
3 blending setting, and perform said determine by determining if the current blending  
4 setting is greater than a predetermined threshold, favoring contents of said non-  
5 blocking always visible display.

1 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said non-blocking always  
2 visible display is a selected one of an on-line data monitor, a tool bar, a logo/mark,  
3 and an animated assistant.

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1 28. (Original) An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to  
3 copy and save first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
4 area,  
5 blend the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
6 to a non-blocking always visible display to generate third pixel values,  
7 replace the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to  
8 effectuate display of the non-blocking always visible display,  
9 intercept cursor events associated with said first display screen area, and  
10 determine whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
11 program associated with said non-blocking always visible display or an  
12 application program associated with an underlying display window,  
13 based at least in part on a current blending bias between said non-

14 blocking always visible display and said underlying display windows;  
15 and  
16 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
17 instructions.

1 29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said programming instructions  
2 are designed to perform said blend in accordance with a current blending setting,  
3 and perform said determine by determining if the current blending setting is greater  
4 than a predetermined threshold, favoring contents of said non-blocking always  
5 visible display.

b2 1 30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said non-blocking always  
2 visible display is a selected one of an on-line data monitor, a tool bar, a logo/mark,  
3 and an animated assistant.

1 31. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to  
3 copy and save first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
4 area on which a non-blocking always visible on-line data monitor is to  
5 be rendered;  
6 blend the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
7 to the non-blocking always visible on-line data monitor to generate  
8 third pixel values, and  
9 replace the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to  
10 effectuate display of the on-line data monitor with the non-blocking  
11 always visible attribute to provide visual differentiation between said

12 on-line data monitor and underlying display windows associated with  
13 locally executed application programs; and  
14 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
15 instructions.

1 32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the programming instructions  
2 are further designed to  
3 monitor for display operations that impact the first display screen area,  
4 upon detection of such a display operation, replace said third pixel values  
5 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values,  
6 upon completion of said display operation, copy and save fourth pixel values  
7 corresponding to the first display screen area,  
8 blend the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to generate  
9 fifth pixel values, and  
10 replace the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain the  
11 non-blocking always visible characteristic of the on-line monitor.

1 33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the programming instructions  
2 are further designed to  
3 intercept cursor events associated with said first display screen area, and  
4 determine whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
5 program associated with said non-blocking always visible on-line data monitor or an  
6 application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in  
7 part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible on-line  
8 data monitor and underlying display windows.

1 34. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

2 storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to  
3 copy and save first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
4 area on which a non-blocking always visible task bar is to be rendered.  
5 blend the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
6 to the non-blocking always visible task bar to generate third pixel  
7 values,  
8 replace the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to  
9 effectuate display of the task bar with the non-blocking always visible  
10 attribute  
11 monitor for display operations that impact the first display screen area,  
12 upon detection of such a display operation, replace said third pixel values  
13 with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values,  
14 upon completion of said display operation, copy and save fourth pixel  
15 values corresponding to the first display screen area,  
16 blend the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
17 generate fifth pixel values, and  
18 replace the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
19 the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the task bar; and  
20 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
21 instructions.

1 35. (Cancelled)

1 36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the programming instructions  
2 are further designed to  
3 intercept cursor events associated with said first display screen area, and

4           determine whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
5 program associated with said non-blocking always visible task bar or an application  
6 program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in part on a  
7 current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible task bar and  
8 underlying display windows.

1   37.   (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

2           storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to  
3           copy and save first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
4           area on which a non-blocking always visible logo/mark is to be  
5           rendered,

6           blend the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
7           to the non-blocking always visible logo/mark to generate third pixel  
8           values,

9           replace the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to  
10          effectuate display of the logo/mark with the non-blocking always visible  
11          attribute,

12          monitor for display operations that impact the first display screen area,  
13          upon detection of such a display operation, replace said third pixel values  
14          with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values,

15          upon completion of said display operation, copy and save fourth pixel  
16          values corresponding to the first display screen area,

17          blend the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
18          generate fifth pixel values, and

19          replace the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
20          the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the logo/mark; and

21 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
22 instructions.

1 38. (Cancelled) .

1 39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the programming instructions  
2 are further designed to  
3 intercept cursor events associated with said first display screen area; and  
4 determine whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
5 program associated with said non-blocking always visible logo/mark or an  
6 application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in  
7 part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible logo/mark  
8 and underlying display windows.

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1 40. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to  
3 copy and save first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen  
4 area on which a non-blocking always visible animated assistant is to  
5 be rendered,  
6 blend the copied first pixel values with second pixel values corresponding  
7 to the non-blocking always visible animated assistant to generate third  
8 pixel values,  
9 replace the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to  
10 effectuate display of the animated assistant with the non-blocking  
11 always visible attribute  
12 monitor for display operations that impact the first display screen area,

13           upon detection of such a display operation, replace said third pixel values  
14           with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values,  
15           upon completion of said display operation, copy and save fourth pixel  
16           values corresponding to the first display screen area,  
17           blend the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to  
18           generate fifth pixel values, and  
19           replace the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain  
20           the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the animated  
21           assistant; and  
22           a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
23           instructions.

br 1   41.   (Cancelled)

1   42.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the programming instructions  
2   are further designed to  
3        intercept cursor events associated with said first display screen area, and  
4        determine whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application  
5   program associated with said non-blocking always visible animated assistant or an  
6   application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in  
7   part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible animated  
8   assistant and underlying display windows.

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